

**Greater Los Angeles County Integrated Regional Water Management  
Leadership Committee Meeting Minutes  
March 26, 2014  
Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
900 South Fremont, Alhambra, CA**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Massood Eftekhari (Los Angeles County Flood Control District), Chair  
Leighanne Kirk for Rich Nagel (West Basin MWD), Chair, South Bay Sub-region  
Rob Beste (City of Torrance), Vice-Chair, South Bay Sub-region  
Randal Orton (Las Virgenes MWD), Chair, NSMB Sub-region  
Barbara Cameron (City of Malibu), Vice Chair, NSMB Sub-region  
Andy Niknafs for Dave Pettijohn (Department of Water and Power), Chair, Upper Los Angeles River Sub-region  
Nancy Steele (Council for Watershed Health), Vice-Chair, Upper Los Angeles River Sub-region  
Kelly Gardner (Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster) Chair, Upper San Gabriel River Sub-region  
Randy Schoellerman (Water Quality Authority) Vice-Chair, Upper San Gabriel River Sub-region  
Jason Weeks for Robb Whitakker (WRD), Chair, Lower San Gabriel & Los Angeles Rivers Sub-region  
Mark Stanley (Rivers and Mountains Conservancy), Vice-Chair, Lower San Gabriel & Los Angeles Rivers Sub-region  
Sharon Green (Sanitation Districts of LA County), Sanitation WMA  
Shahram Kharaghani (City of Los Angeles), Stormwater WMA  
Shelly Luce (Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission), Open Space WMA  
Tony Zampiello (Raymond Basin), Groundwater WMA

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Acuña, Armando (Metropolitan Water District)  
Alva, Paul (Los Angeles County Department of Public Works)  
Bradbury, Daniel (Los Angeles County Department of Public Works)  
Birkimer, Patrick (Los Angeles County Department of Public Works)  
Bryden, Russ (Los Angeles County Flood Control District)  
Caldwell, E.J. (West Basin MWD)  
Dougall, Jan (Las Virgenes MWD)  
Drugan, Dan (Foothill MWD)  
Fowler, Virginia (Los Angeles County Flood Control District)  
Grant, Terri (Los Angeles County Flood Control District)  
Helsley, Jeff (Stetson Engineers)  
Hildebrand, Gary (Los Angeles County Flood Control District)  
Jazmadarian, Nina (Foothill MWD)

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Juerta, Enrique (DAC Consultant)  
La, Wendy (LASER, LLC)  
Paras, Rochelle (Los Angeles County Flood Control District)  
Schenk, Leslie (Los Angeles County Department of Public Works)  
Sulzer, Dan (USACE)  
Schaffer, Carolyn (Metropolitan Water District)  
Tam, Wing (City of Los Angeles)  
Villegas, Rafael (Los Angeles Department of Water and Power)  
Walden, Adam (Los Angeles County Department of Public Works)  
Wang, Guangyu (Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission)  
Zauner, Mary (County Sanitation Districts)

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting was called to order at 9:40 a.m.

**2. APPROVAL OF MEETING NOTES**

Motion to approve the February 26, 2014 meeting summary with one revision passed unanimously. The February meeting summary is revised to reflect that the Raymond Basin encourages a 20% reduction in water consumption.

**3. IRWM GRANTS UPDATE**

Russ Bryden provided the following updates on IRWM items:

- 3.1 Plan Update Process -- DWR have completed their initial review of the Region's IRWM Plan Update and determined it to be consistent with Program Standards. The Plan will be posted on DWR's website for a 30 day public comment period beginning April 1, 2014. Russ reminded the group that upon receipt of DWR's official approval of the Plan, Leadership Committee members are to begin their plan adoption process.
- 3.2 Proposition 50 and Proposition 84, Round 1
  - Proposition 50 Grant – The total funds billed to date is \$16.7 million out of the \$25 million Proposition 50 grant. LACFCD has submitted the official budget amendment request to reallocate \$1.8 million and is awaiting the formal amendment paperwork from DWR. Full execution of the amendment is anticipated by May 2014.
  - Proposition. 84 Round 1 – Contract administration and invoicing is underway. DWR is currently reviewing second invoice.
- 3.3 Proposition 84, Round 2
  - DWR is on expedited schedule for this round and intend to get agreements executed by early summer 2014. The grant commitment letter listing conditions and deliverables needed to prepare and execute the grant agreement was

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received by LACFCD. LACFCD staff are working with project proponents to submit the deliverables by DWR's April 1, 2014 deadline.

- Russ reported that one of the Round 2 projects from the ULAR subregion is not able to proceed. Foothill Municipal Water District, the project proponent for this recycled water project, opted to forfeit the \$1.4 million grant funds originally allocated to this project. DWR has been apprised and provided us with these two options: 1) Redistribute the \$1.4 Million grant originally slated for this recycled water project or 2) Keep the project included in the grant agreement, execute, and do an amendment later.

A spreadsheet with the following redistribution options was distributed to the Leadership Committee for consideration:

- Scenario 1 Keep the funding within the original subregion (funding is distributed to only Upper LA River subregion projects)
- Scenario 2: Prorate distribution according to the original amount of grant funds received
- Scenario 3: Equal Distribution across subregions (Divide the \$1.4 million equally across the 5 subregions)
- Scenario 4: Equal Distribution across projects (Divide the \$1.4 million equally across the remaining 12 projects)

A motion was made to apply the same principles used in the Proposition 50 redistribution, i.e. keep the funds within the same subregion they were originally allocated. Motion passed with one abstention from Sharon Green, Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County. The \$1.4 million will be redistributed between the remaining two projects in the Upper LA River subregion.

#### **4. PROPOSITION 84, ROUND 3**

**4.1 Background and Updates** – It was reported that DWR will expedite the solicitation process in response to the Governor's recent Drought Declaration. Draft Guidelines and PSPs are to be released in early April. Grant application deadline is anticipated to be early July 2014. At this time, it is still not clear how much each funding area can apply for.

**4.2 GLAC IRWM Project Prioritization Process** – It was reported that the Round 3 subcommittee has drafted a 2014 drought response project selection/prioritization criteria that could be used to guide project selection during their April subregional meetings.

**4.3 Grant Application Preparation/Consultant Support** – Russ Bryden reported that the expedited schedule does not allow for the competitive RFP process. Russ also reported that RMC Water and Environment is on LACFCD's as-needed

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contract list and can immediately be retained for the grant application work. Should the group decide to go this route, LACFCD will need to execute cost-sharing agreements with the project proponents. Mark Pestrella reiterated that the LACFCD accepts the risk of fronting the money for the grant application.

A motion was made to let LACFCD retain RMC as their as-needed consultant for the grant application preparation and to let LACFCD execute cost-sharing agreements/MOUs with project proponents. Motion passed unanimously.

**5. DROUGHT DISCUSSION**

Russ Bryden reported that the Drought Subcommittee met on March 25, 2014 and discussed opportunities arising from the recent drought declaration. The committee is putting together a whitepaper and would like today's discussion to focus on consistent talking points, especially those related to why southern California deserves a portion of the drought funding. Representatives from Metropolitan Water District provided an overview of their \$5.5 million outreach campaign and described their conservation messages and public announcements. The group agreed that communication material to be developed should recognize the work already accomplished in this Region while acknowledging that additional work still needed.

**6. LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE**

E.J. Caldwell reported that the recent legislative meeting focused on the Water Action Plan as well as financial bills and their effect on long-term funding for IRWM. A summary document was distributed to the group.

**7. STEERING COMMITTEE CHAIRS' AND WMA REPORT**

Sharon Green shared that the State is offering a 1% interest rate on its SRF Program. Adam Walden provided a summary of the LACFCD's local conservation efforts. Shelly Luce reported that Russ Bryden was asked to present to the SMBRCS's Board in April 2014.

No other updates were provided.

**8. DAC ITEMS**

Mark Stanley reported that the DAC Subcommittee drafted a letter to DWR containing feedback from the previous rounds of grant solicitation and recommendations for upcoming solicitations. The letter will be circulated to the Leadership Committee for review and approval.

**9. PUBLIC COMMENT**

A member of the public made a comment regarding the drought's effect to the State and made a plea to the group to address the problem.

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**10. FUTURE AGENDA/OTHER ITEMS**

The following topics were recommended as future agenda items:

- Round 3 Grant Application - Project Prioritization, Schedule, Funding

**11. ADJOURNMENT** - The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for April 26, 2014 at the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works Headquarters.